(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to financial constraints conversion of canal loop from MG to BG cannot be taken up for the present. Transhipment of MG traffic from canal loop into BG is being done at Hissar. With the reduced traffic now obtaining on the MG, the need for providing transhipment facilities at Suratgarh does not exist.

Demands Made by Railway Vendors' Unions

2759. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some unions of the railway vendors at various railway stations in the country have raised certain demands;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received.

(b) Main demands pertain to change in the policy for absorption as regular Railway employees, use of disposable cups, increase of commission.

(c) The demands have been examined and it has been decided not to change the existing policy.

Removal of Unauthorised Hawkers from Railway Platforms

2760. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have issued instructions from time to time to Zonal Railways launching special drives to remove unauthorised hawkers of news papers/magazines who are selling obscene literature;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Northern Railway have not implemented these instructions so far and a large number of unauthorised hawkers are still selling obscene literature on platforms at Kanpur, Delhi and New Delhi Stations; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to launch a drive at their own level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Size of Book Stalls at Major Railway Stations

2761. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions in August, 1988 from Members of Parliament regarding fixing of the size of Book-Stalls at Major Railway Station in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by Govt. thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was suggested that at major stations the size of book-stalls should

be atleast 10' x 10'. Railways were advised to undertake a review of the size of the existing book-stalls at major railway stations and try standardisation.

Parcels/Packets of Books, Magazines lost at Delhi and New Delhi Stations

2762. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the detail of parcels/packets of Books/Magazines lost during transit from Parcel Offices at Delhi and New Delhi stations during the last three years; and also the detail of amount paid in shape of claims to the publishers/distributors during this period;

(b) what action has been taken against the staff found responsible for such losses; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avert such type of losses/claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A statement is attached (See below).

(b) The staff found responsible for such losses have been taken up suitably.

(c) Proper packing, marking and labelling of consignments as also proper preparation of documents is ensured to avoid mis-despatches. Proper pad-locking of brake-vans and luggage-vans is also done to prevent theft in transit. Besides, staff are being suitably taken up for dereliction of duty.

Statement

Year	No. of claims preferred for Loss of Parcels Packets of books/ magazines at Delhi and New Delhi stations.	Amount paid (in lacs)
1986-87	344	1.18
1987-88	427	0.85
1988-89	480	1.23

Insufficient Staff at Jind Loco Shed in Haryana

2763. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff posted at Jind Loco Shed in Haryana is not sufficient as per the norms fixed by Railways to attend Steam Engines in that shed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of increasing the staff there, Government propose to convert those Steam Engines into Diesel Engines;

(d) if so, what is the expenditure involved and time likely to be taken in the entire process; and

(e) how and where the Steam Engine Staff is likely to be absorbed/transferred after conversion of Steam Engines into Diesel Engines?